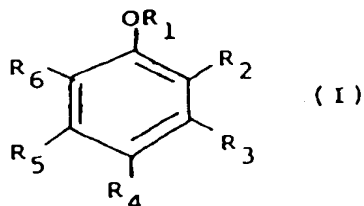


THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. A feeding stimulant for stimulating feeding activity in termites, comprising an effective amount of a compound capable of stimulating feeding activity in termites, said
- 5 compound having at least two OR groups, each of which is a substituent of an aryl moiety, and R is hydrogen or an organic group, and addition compounds thereof, and a biologically acceptable carrier and/or extender.
- 10 2. A feeding stimulant as claimed in claim 1 wherein at least one R is an organic group and said compound has feeding stimulating activity.
- 15 3. A feeding stimulant as claimed in claim 2 wherein said organic group is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, substituted alkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, aralkyl and substituted aralkyl.
- 20 4. A feeding stimulant as claimed in claim 1 wherein at least one R is an organic group and said compound is a precursor of a compound with feeding stimulating activity.
- 25 5. A feeding stimulant as claimed in claim 4 wherein said compound is hydrolysed to a compound in which said at least one R is hydrogen.
6. A feeding stimulant as claimed in claim 5 wherein said organic group is a carbohydrate moiety.
- 30 7. A feeding stimulant as claimed in claim 6 wherein said compound is  $\beta$ -arbutin.

8. A feeding stimulant as claimed in claim 1 wherein said aryl group is a benzene ring substituted by said at least two OR groups.

9. A feeding stimulant as claimed in claim 8 wherein said compound has the following general formula I:



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wherein  $R_1$  is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, aralkyl and substituted aralkyl;

$R_2$ ,  $R_3$ ,  $R_4$ ,  $R_5$  and  $R_6$  are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, substituted alkyl, alkoxy, substituted alkoxy, aryl, substituted aryl, aryloxy, substituted aryloxy, aralkyl, substituted aralkyl, aralkyloxy and substituted aralkyloxy, or  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  together,  $R_3$  and  $R_4$  together,  $R_4$  and  $R_5$  together and/or  $R_5$  and  $R_6$  together form an aryl group;

provided only that least one of  $R_2$ ,  $R_3$ ,  $R_4$ ,  $R_5$  or  $R_6$  is hydroxyl, alkoxy, substituted alkoxy, aryloxy, substituted aryloxy, aralkyloxy or substituted aralkyloxy.

10. A feeding stimulant as claimed in claim 9 wherein  $R_1$  is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, aryl and aralkyl.

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11. A feeding stimulant as claimed in claim 10 wherein  $R_1$  is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, phenyl and benzyl.

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12. A feeding stimulant as claimed in claim 11 wherein  $R_1$  is hydrogen.

13. A feeding stimulant as claimed in claim 9 wherein  $R_2$ ,  $R_3$ ,  $R_4$ ,  $R_5$  and  $R_6$  are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, alkoxy, aryl, aryloxy, aralkyl, and aralkyloxy.

14. A feeding stimulant as claimed in claim 13 wherein  $R_2$ ,  $R_3$ ,  $R_4$ ,  $R_5$  and  $R_6$  are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, methyl, ethyl, methoxy, ethoxy, phenyl, phenoxy, benzyl and benzyloxy.

15. A feeding stimulant as claimed in claim 14 wherein  $R_2$  or  $R_6$  is hydroxyl.

16. A feeding stimulant as claimed in claim 14 wherein  $R_3$  or  $R_5$  is hydroxyl.

17. A feeding stimulant as claimed in claim 14 wherein  $R_4$  is hydroxyl.

18. A feeding stimulant as claimed in claim 1 wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:

p-hydroquinone  
quinhydrone  
catechol  
resorcinol  
phloroglucinol  
4-methoxyphenol  
methoxyhydroquinone  
1,4-dimethoxybenzene

4-phenoxyphenol  
phenylhydroquinone  
4-benzyloxyphenol

5 19. A feeding stimulant as claimed in claim 1 wherein said compound has a plurality of aryl moieties.

20. A feeding stimulant as claimed in claim 19 wherein each said aryl moiety is a benzene ring.

10

21. A feeding stimulant as claimed in claim 20 wherein said compound is a polyphenylether.

22. A method of stimulating feeding activity in termites,  
15 comprising the steps of:

(1) providing a feeding stimulant as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 21; and

(2) applying said feeding stimulant to a locus.

20 23. A method as claimed in claim 22 further comprising the step of providing a food source at said locus.

24. A method of attracting termites to a locus, comprising the steps of:

25 (1) providing a food source at said locus;

(2) providing a feeding stimulant as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 21; and

(3) applying said feeding stimulant to said locus.

30 25. A bait for attracting termites, comprising:

(1) a food source; and

(2) a feeding stimulant as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 21.

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claims 1 to 21.

26. A bait as claimed in claim 25 wherein said food source is a source of cellulose.

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27. A bait as claimed in claim 26 wherein said food source is selected from the group consisting of paper, cardboard, canite, chipboard, sound wood and fungally decayed wood.

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28. A bait as claimed in any one of claims 25 to 27 further comprising a termiticidal substance.

29. A bait as claimed in claim 28 in which said termiticidal substance is a chitin synthesis inhibitor or an insect growth regulator.

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30. A bait as claimed in any one of claims 25 to 29 further comprising an antioxidant.

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31. A bait as claimed in any one of claims 25 to 30 further comprising a synergist and/or other attractants.

32. A bait as claimed in any one of claims 25 to 31 further comprising nutrients such as nitrogen-containing compounds and carbohydrates.

25

33. A termiticidal composition comprising:

(1) a termiticidal substance; and

(2) a feeding stimulant as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 21.

30

34. A termiticidal composition as claimed in claim 33 wherein said termiticidal substance is a chitin synthesis inhibitor or insect growth regulator.

5 35. A compound having at least two OR groups, each of which is a substituent of an aryl moiety, and R is hydrogen or an organic group, and addition compounds thereof, when used for stimulating feeding activity in termites.

10 36. A compound as claimed in claim 35 of general formula I as defined in claim 9.

15 37. A compound having at least two OR groups, each of which is a substituent of an aryl moiety, and R is hydrogen or an organic group, and addition compounds thereof, when used in an amount effective to stimulate feeding activity in termites to attract termites to a locus.

20 38. A compound as claimed in claim 37 of general formula I as defined in claim 9.

25 39. The use of a compound having at least two OR groups, each of which is a substituent of an aryl moiety, and R is hydrogen or an organic group, and addition compounds thereof, in stimulating feeding activity in termites.

40. The use of a compound as claimed in claim 39 wherein said compound is of general formula I as defined in claim 9.

30

41. The use in an amount effective to stimulate feeding activity in termites of a compound capable of stimulating feeding activity in termites, said compound having at least

two OR groups, each of which is a substituent of an aryl moiety, and R is hydrogen or an organic group, and addition compounds thereof, to attract termites to a locus.

5 42. The use of a compound as claimed in claim ~~41~~ wherein  
said compound is of general formula I as defined in claim  
9.

43. The use in an amount effective to stimulate feeding  
10 activity in termites of a compound capable of stimulating  
feeding activity in termites in the manufacture of a bait  
for attracting termites, said compound having at least two  
OR groups, each of which is a substituent of an aryl  
moiety, and R is hydrogen or an organic group, and addition  
15 compounds thereof.

44. The use of compound as claimed in claim 43 wherein said compound is of general formula I as defined in claim 9.

45. The use in an amount effective to stimulate feeding activity in termites of a compound capable of stimulating feeding activity in termites in the manufacture of a termiticidal composition, said compound having at least two OR groups, each of which is a substituent of an aryl moiety, and R is hydrogen or an organic group, and addition compounds thereof.

46. The use of a compound as claimed in claim 45 wherein  
30 said compound is of general formula I as defined in claim  
9.

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47. A method of stimulating feeding activity in termites, comprising the steps of:

- (1) providing a compound effective in stimulating feeding activity in termites having at least two OR groups, each of which is a substituent of an aryl moiety, and R is hydrogen or an organic group, and addition compounds thereof; and
- (2) applying said compound to a locus.

48. A method as claimed in claim 47 wherein at least one R is an organic group and said compound has feeding stimulating activity.

49. A method as claimed in claim 48 wherein said organic group is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, substituted alkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, aralkyl and substituted aralkyl.

50. A method as claimed in claim 47 wherein at least one R is an organic group and said compound is a precursor of a compound with feeding stimulating activity.

51. A method as claimed in claim 50 wherein said compound is hydrolysed to a compound in which said at least one R is hydrogen.

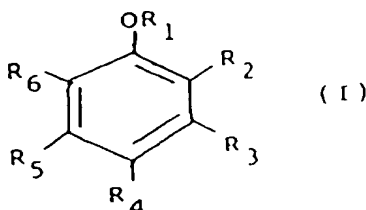
52. A method as claimed in claim 51 wherein said organic group is a carbohydrate moiety.

53. A method as claimed in claim 52 wherein said compound is  $\beta$ -arbutin.



54. A method as claimed in claim 47 wherein said compound has an aromatic nucleus substituted by said at least two OR groups.

- 5 55. A method as claimed in claim 54 wherein said compound has the following general formula I:



wherein R<sub>1</sub> is selected from the group consisting of  
15 hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, aralkyl and substituted aralkyl;

R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub> and R<sub>6</sub> are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, substituted alkyl, alkoxy, substituted alkoxy, aryl, substituted aryl, aryloxy, substituted aryloxy, alkaryl, substituted alkaryl, alkaryloxy and substituted alkaryloxy, or R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> together, R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> together, R<sub>4</sub> and R<sub>5</sub> together and/or R<sub>5</sub> and R<sub>6</sub> together form an aryl group;

provided only that least one of R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub> or R<sub>6</sub> is  
25 hydroxyl, alkoxy, substituted alkoxy, aryloxy, substituted aryloxy, alkaryloxy or substituted alkaryloxy.

56. A method as claimed in claim 55 wherein R<sub>1</sub> is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, aryl and  
30 alkaryl.

57. A method as claimed in claim 56 wherein R<sub>1</sub> is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, methyl, ethyl,

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phenyl and benzyl.

58. A method as claimed in claim 57 wherein R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen.

5 59. A method as claimed in claim 54 wherein R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>  
and R<sub>6</sub> are independently selected from the group consisting  
of hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, alkoxy, aryl, aryloxy,  
alkaryl, and alkaryloxy.

10 60. A method as claimed in claim 58 wherein R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>  
and R<sub>6</sub> are independently selected from the group consisting  
of hydrogen, hydroxyl, methyl, ethyl, methoxy, ethoxy,  
phenyl, phenoxy, benzyl and benzyloxy.

15 61. A method as claimed in claim ~~60~~ wherein R<sub>2</sub> or R<sub>6</sub> is hydroxyl.

62. A method as claimed in claim 60 wherein R<sub>3</sub> or R<sub>5</sub> is hydroxyl.

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63. A method as claimed in claim 60 wherein R<sub>4</sub> is hydroxyl.

64. A method as claimed in claim 47 wherein said compound  
25 is selected from the group consisting of:

p-hydroquinone

quinhydrone

catechol

resorcinol

30 phloroglucinol

4-methoxyphenol

methoxyhydroquinone

1,4-dimethoxybenzene

